

It has been proposed to hold a meeting for the discussion of this matter, establish an association of railway surgeons, and draw up certain rules for its guidance. For this movement I ask the sympathy and support of the rank and file of the profession, and dare express the hope that none will be found willing to accept service at rates lower than those fixed on by the association as fair and in proportion to the work and responsibilities.

Clubs and societies have enjoyed the full advantage of keen competition and want of combination in an overcrowded profession, till the fees have dropped almost to the vanishing point. Combination and *esprit de corps* may yet recover the lost ground. In supporting one another let us remember the fight is not only for those in possession of appointments, but also for their successors for all time. The medical profession wants one association absorbing every registered practitioner, and the several defence and minor associations; then its organised strength could be efficiently used to protect the interest of its members.

Every member of the British Medical Association should endeavour to induce those not on its roll to join.

While we applaud the plucky fight in Cork seems a fitting time to arrange for the discussion of club practice at the Ethical Section at the London meeting.—I am, etc.,

Enniskillen, March 25th.

L. KIDD, M.D.

OBITUARY.

WILLIAM TOWERS SMITH, M.R.C.S.

WE regret to have to announce the death of Mr. Towers Smith, a well-known member of the profession in London. William Towers Smith was born in Normandy in 1836. He came of a family distinguished in military history; his uncle, Sir Lionel Smith, was an aide-de-camp to His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent; his father was a captain in the 2nd Queen's; and he himself, at the age of 18, received a commission in the 17th Lancers, and served with that gallant regiment in the Crimea. A few years later he left the army and went to study medicine at Edinburgh, where his genial manners and the enthusiasm with which he adopted the interests of his new profession enabled him to form a lifelong friendship with many of the leaders of the Scottish school of medicine. Coming to London, he finished his course by attending lectures at St. Mary's Hospital, where he had the benefit of instruction at the hands of both the Lanes, of Sibson, Coulson, and Handfield Jones. For his teachers and associates, both in Edinburgh and St. Mary's, Mr. Smith had a profound affection and veneration, and his mind was stored with personal anecdotes, which he had a remarkable faculty for relating.

Becoming a Member of the College of Surgeons in 1861, he entered at once upon the duties of busy practice in Kensington, where he resided for more than twenty years, and was universally respected. Nearly ten years ago, however, his health failed, and he was obliged to give up work and retired into the country. Once more restored to mental, and in some degree to bodily, vigour, he returned to London, and practised for a time in the neighbourhood of the Courts of Justice. While there he had medical charge of the witnesses for the *Times* during the famous Parnell Commission trial. Having now for the first time in his life both health and leisure he applied himself to the study of dietetics, and matured the system in connection with which his name has become most familiar. Recognising the influence of the body weight upon health, and the great importance of dealing with excessive obesity, he carefully considered the various methods which have from time to time found advocates, eliminated their several fallacies, and choosing what was best in each, put his views to the test of experience in the workhouses and elsewhere, and already, before he had been generally heard of in his new pursuit, had achieved a large measure of success. His reputation quickly grew in the first instance exclusively amongst the members of his profession.

His relations with his colleagues were always of the most cordial character, and he was rarely accessible but through their medium. This, added to his great knowledge of foods,

his large experience as a practitioner, his great enthusiasm, and, above all, the valuable personal gift by which he endeared himself to his patients and obtained a firm hold on their confidence secured for him in a few years a considerable amount of professional success.

Three years ago, however, his health suffered severely from an attack of influenza followed by pneumonia. He had long suffered from emphysema and chronic bronchitis, and when, on March 11th, he was again seized with influenza, quickly followed by pneumonia, it was shortly evident that he must succumb. He died on the morning of the 16th, regretted by all who knew him and, unhappily, too soon to have reaped a just harvest for the excellent seed of work that he had sown. He leaves a widow and two children.

EDWARD PARKE, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,

West Derby, Liverpool.

ONE of the oldest and most respected members of the profession in Lancashire has passed away in the person of Mr. Edward Parke, whose death took place at Southport on March 12th. Mr. Parke was born on May 24th, 1808, at Edgehill, then a village on the outskirts of Liverpool; and was educated at the school of Dr. Shepherd, at Gateacre. He was apprenticed to his brother, Mr. J. Parke, who was in practice as a surgeon at Edgehill; and thence proceeded to Guy's Hospital, and subsequently to Paris. In 1836 he settled in practice in West Derby, then a country village, where he remained until his retirement in 1881. During his long and prosperous career he carried on a large and high-class practice, and enjoyed the entire confidence of his patients, with whom he was deservedly popular. He was much devoted to outdoor exercises, especially archery and fishing, and in his pursuit of the gentle craft he visited nearly every part of the United Kingdom, generally in the company of some congenial friend. He was also a good judge of art, and himself a painter in oil and watercolour of no mean ability. For some time he was a member of the West Derby Local Board, but otherwise he took little part in parochial affairs. Lithe, active, energetic, and spare in form, he did much of his professional work on foot, especially in his earlier days. A few years before his retirement he took into partnership Dr. T. R. Judson, also a Guy's man, who succeeded to the practice. Since 1881 he has lived in Southport, occupying himself largely with literary and other congenial pursuits.

GEORGE THOMAS LEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

IN dying at the early age of 34, Mr. Lee has left but partly fulfilled the promise of a useful life, and prematurely closed a career which bid fair to prove valuable in his selected line of practice—psychological medicine. Mr. Lee obtained his medical training in London at University College Hospital, and upon qualifying in 1883 at once commenced the active practice of lunacy by taking the post of assistant medical officer in the Fisherton House Asylum, Salisbury. He devoted his life to this work, taking posts at the Institute for the Insane, Coton Hill, Stafford, and finally settling down at the County Asylum in that city, where he pursued his duties to within a fortnight of his death. Mr. Lee was greatly beloved by his fellow workers, and his loss will be deplored while his memory will be respected.

LOUIS FLORENTIN CALMEIL, M.D.

DR. LOUIS FLORENTIN CALMEIL, the oldest and one of the most justly celebrated specialists in psychological medicine in France, died on March 11th in his 97th year. Born at Yversay, Poitou, in 1798, he studied medicine first in the preparatory school of Poitiers, and afterwards in Paris. He was for some time *externe* under Dupuytren, but having been "shaken" on one occasion by that great but rough-mannered surgeon, he had himself transferred to another service. In due course he obtained the post of *interne*, and was appointed to the great lunatic asylum of Charenton. He was at that time about 24 years of age, and he remained attached to Charenton till he was 74. He served there as *interne* first under Royer-Collard, and afterwards under Esquirol, who took a particular interest in his career. Calmeil held all the

medical posts at Charenton in succession. He was physician-in-chief of the asylum for twenty-two years, continuing to hold the appointment until he retired from active professional life in 1872. He spent the remainder of his days amidst books and plants, to both of which he was passionately devoted, in a charming house not far from the asylum which had been the scene of his life's work.

Calmeil was a man of a modesty equal to his talents and acquirements, and he took no pains at any time to push himself into notoriety. So devoted was he to his poor patients at Charenton that he refused the most tempting offers to embark on work of a more profitable kind. He was a man of the most kindly nature, though strict in matters of duty, in which he himself set the best possible example. His contributions to the literature of his speciality cover almost the whole ground of diseases of the mind. His thesis for the doctor's degree, which he took in 1824, was on the seat of epilepsy and its influence in the production of insanity.

Among his larger works may be mentioned: *On Paralysis in the Insane* (1826); *Diseases of the Cord* (1839); *On Madness from the Pathological, Philosophical, Historical, and Judicial Points of View* (1845). In this excellent work are described the great epidemics of simple or complicated delirium which have prevailed in various countries, and particularly in monastic establishments; and an account is given of the miscarriages of justice to which the non-recognition of insanity has given rise. Among his other works are *A Treatise on Inflammatory Diseases of the Brain* (1859), for which he received the Cross of Officer of the Legion of Honour.

THE death is announced of Mr. JAMES DAVIS, M.R.C.S. Eng., at his residence in Dublin. Mr. Davis, who was aged 88, was for 40 years engaged in the active practice of his profession. In 1834 he settled at Newport, Mayo, where his district was of enormous extent, reaching into the Isle of Achill on the one side, to Ballycroby on the other. During the trying famine and epidemic periods in the West of Ireland his devotion to duty and heroic self-sacrifice gained for him the special recognition of the authorities. On his retirement he was granted the maximum pension under the Poor Law Board, and was presented with an illuminated address, accompanied by a purse of 100 guineas, by his patients and friends. Dr. Davis while actively engaged in practice acquired a special reputation for his skill in obstetrics. He was a man of upright character, whose sterling good qualities and readiness to give help in difficulties won for him the respect and affection of all who knew him. His eldest son entered the Medical Service of the Royal Navy, and had attained the rank of Staff-Surgeon when he died on the Pacific Station. His second son also entered the medical profession, but has since retired from practice, while his third son is Dr. Arthur N. Davis, Medical Superintendent of the Plymouth Borough Asylum.

WE regret to announce the death of Mr. DANIEL BALL, F.R.C.S. Eng., which took place at his residence at Stoke-on-Trent on March 17th in his 96th year. The deceased entered in 1821 as a student at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1825, and was elected a Fellow in 1844. After qualifying he settled in Burslem, and continued to practise there until 1859. Mr. Ball had served on the staff of the North Staffordshire Infirmary from 1835, in which institution he took a great interest. The funeral, which took place on March 21st, was attended by a great number of sorrowing friends.

DR. WILLIAM GODFREY DYAS, one of the oldest practitioners of Chicago, who was recently run over by an express train in that city of reckless traffic, was born in Ireland. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and went to Chicago in 1859. He was for some years editor of the *Medical Journal* of that city, and up to the time of his death he took a very active part in the professional life of Chicago. He was Consulting Surgeon to the Cook County Hospital and to the Women's Hospital, and an ex-President of the Chicago Medical Society. Dr. Dyas contributed comparatively little to medical literature. He had prepared an important work

embodying some of the results of his large clinical experience, but the MS., together with a large mass of material which he had collected for it perished in the great fire which destroyed Chicago in 1871. Dr. Dyas was naturally discouraged by this accident, and he was never able to screw his courage to the point of rewriting the work. He was 87 years of age.

DR. M. R. MARJOLIN, whose death, at the age of 83, was recently announced in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, was the oldest of the hospital surgeons of Paris. He was a son of the distinguished surgeon of that name, formerly Professor of External Pathology in the Paris Faculty, and took his degree in 1839. He was one of the last surviving founders of the Société de Chirurgie. He was the author of a number of papers on subjects connected with operative surgery and hospital hygiene.

THE death is announced of Dr. CHARLES JOHN MILL, of Kirriemuir, in the 81st year of his age. Dr. Mill, who was a native of Arbroath, practised in Kirriemuir for fifty-two years and down to his retirement in 1887. He was well known in the district and highly esteemed.

MR. RICHARD LEACROFT FREER, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., who died on March 13th, was born in 1818, and was the eldest son of Mr. W. H. Freer, surgeon of Stourbridge, whose father also had been in practice in that town. Mr. R. L. Freer was educated at the Bridgnorth Grammar School, and subsequently studied at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. In 1840 he commenced practice with his father at Stourbridge, and on the elder gentleman's death in 1858 was joined by Mr. Alfred Freer. He continued in practice until 1880, when failing sight compelled him to retire. Mr. Freer, who served for a long time in the Yeomanry, was also a magistrate for the counties of Worcester and Stafford, and was very highly esteemed in Stourbridge and the neighbourhood.

DEATHS IN THE PROFESSION ABROAD.—Among the members of the medical profession in foreign countries who have recently passed away are Dr. Brunhes, Dean of the Faculty of Science of Dijon; Dr. Emile Bodast, of Brussels, Physician to the household of the King of the Belgians; Dr. Augustin Faucon, Burgomaster of Rœulx (Belgium), aged 65; Dr. Chabrely, a former President of the Bordeaux Society of Medicine and Surgery, and Vice-President-elect of the Congress of Internal Medicine, which is to be held at Bordeaux this year; Dr. Schoenfeld, of Berlin, formerly a Counsellor in the Prussian Cultusministerium; Dr. Waldau, of Berlin, a well-known ophthalmic surgeon, aged 73; Dr. de Larabrie, Professor of Clinical Surgery in the Medical School of Nantes; Dr. Fr. Müller, formerly President of the Swiss Federal Commission for Examination in Medicine; Dr. Carl Boedecker, sometime Professor of Physiological Chemistry in the University of Göttingen; and Dr. F. A. Sawyer, Vice-President of the Massachusetts Medical Society, aged 62.

MEDICO-LEGAL AND MEDICO-ETHICAL.

CHARGE OF EXPOSURE OF INFECTIOUS PATIENT.

At the Guildford Petty Sessions on March 23rd Mr. Bird, of High Wycombe, was summoned by the Woking sanitary authorities, under Section 126 of the Public Health Act, 1875, "for that he being in charge of Sara Williams, a person suffering from a dangerous infectious disorder, to wit scarlet fever, exposed her without proper precautions against spreading disorder in a street, public place, or public conveyance."

The facts stated were as follows: The two children of Mr. Bird were suffering from scarlet fever. He applied to the Hanover Institute of Nurses for a nurse. On January 14th Nurse Sara Williams arrived, having been sent by the institute. On January 18th she complained of being ill and said she thought the symptoms pointed to scarlet fever. In this view she was confirmed by Dr. Browne. According to the nurse, Mr. Bird insisted on her leaving at once. The defendant said she at once decided to leave. At all events, she elected to go to Woking, where the Hanover Nurses' Institute have a quarantine cottage for their nurses. She accordingly travelled to Paddington, and thence by cab to Waterloo, and on to Woking, and thence in a cab to the Institute. When in the train there were other passengers in the same compartment. On arrival at Woking the rash was well out on the neck and arms. High Wycombe has not adopted the Notification